

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct reference to a changed correspondence address. Claims 2, 44, 46, and 48 have been cancelled. Claims 3, 17, and 47 have been amended, and new claims 49-58 have been added. Support for the amendments and new claims lies in the original claims and specification as filed. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments contained herein.

The specification was objected to for incorrect reference to the address of the American Type Culture Collection, as the ATCC has relocated.

Applicants have amended the specification in order to refer to the new address, thus rendering the objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Claims were objected to for lack of proper introduction.

The Claims have been amended to add an introductory phrase, thus rendering the objection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim 46 was rejected under 35 USC §112 first paragraph as containing insufficient written description.

Claim 46 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 2-4, 17, 44, and 46-48 were rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for recitation of the term "at least about." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, and submit the term "at least about" would be clearly understood to one of skill in the art in the present context. In hybridization context for example. Those of skill in the art would know what is meant by such language. However, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have herein amended the language to recite "at least," as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 2 was rejected for use of the term "having an amino acid identity of at least about." Claim 2 has been cancelled, thus rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 17 and 47 were rejected for recitation of "a bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit in view of those of skill in the art, in conjunction with the disclosure of the present specification, one of skill in the art would clearly comprehend use of this phraseology. However, in attempt to clarify, Applicants have amended the claims in question to recite "at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide."

Claims 17 and 47 were rejected for use of the acronym "ACE." Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicant respectfully point out the term used in the claims in question, "ACE" is not used in the general sense of "angiotensin converting enzyme homolog," rather is intended to refer to the "ACE-2 polypeptide." Thus, expansion of the protein name here an incorrect requirement set forth by the Examiner.

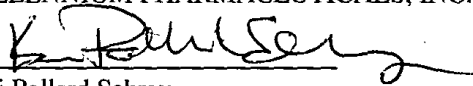
Claim 46 was rejected for indefinite recitation of phrase "allelic variant" and Claim 48 was rejected as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit Claims 46 and 48 have been cancelled thus rendering these rejections moot.

In view of the amendments and remarks discussed above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §112 is respectfully requested.

In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 are now overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited.

It is believed the present submission is being made timely, and no extensions of time or fees are required. In the event any additional fees are necessary, the undersigned hereby authorizes the requisite fees to be charged to Deposit Account No. 501668.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>03 March 2003</u>	<p>MILLENNIUM PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.</p> <p>By </p> <p>Kerri Pollard Schray Registration No. 47,066 75 Sidney Street Cambridge, MA 02139 Telephone - 617-551-3676 Facsimile - 617-551-8820</p>
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